Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[ ]]. Any cancellations are without prejudice.

1. (Previously presented) An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from at least four cylinders of the multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

a first exhaust pipe group and a second exhaust pipe group each of which is comprised of two exhaust pipes selected from four exhaust pipes respectively connected to the four cylinders at upstream end portions thereof;

a first exhaust sub-collecting pipe configured to collect the first exhaust pipe group to form one exhaust passage;

a second exhaust sub-collecting pipe configured to collect the second exhaust pipe group to form another exhaust passage;

a first joint portion formed at a downstream end portion of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe, the first joint portion including a first semi-cylindrical peripheral wall having a joint face defining the opening and extending along a direction of the flow of the exhaust gases; and

a second joint portion formed at a downstream end portion of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe, the second joint portion including a second semi-cylindrical peripheral wall

having an opening with a joint face defining the opening and extending along a direction of flow of the exhaust gases; and

a fastener device;

wherein the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe includes the first exhaust pipe group and the first joint portion and is formed in one unitary, integrally cast piece, and the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe includes the second exhaust pipe group and the second joint portion and is formed in one unitary, integrally cast piece, each of the unitary, integrally cast pieces being separable from the other;

and wherein the opening of the first joint portion is opened toward the second joint portion and the opening of the second joint portion is opened toward the first joint portion, the first joint portion and the second joint portion are separably joined to each other at the joint faces thereof by the fastening device to form the one exhaust passage including the first semi-cylindrical peripheral wall and the second semi-cylindrical peripheral wall.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 1, further comprising a rubber tube that covers an outer periphery of the first and second semicylindrical peripheral walls that are joined to face each other.

4. (Currently amended) An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from at least four cylinders

of the multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream of the exhaust pipes in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

a first exhaust pipe group and a second exhaust pipe group each of which is comprised of two exhaust pipes selected from four exhaust pipes respectively connected to the four cylinders at upstream end portions thereof;

a first exhaust sub-collecting pipe configured to collect two exhaust pipes of the first exhaust pipe group to form one exhaust passage;

a second exhaust sub-collecting pipe configured to collect two exhaust pipes of the second exhaust pipe group to form another exhaust passage;

a first joint portion formed at a downstream end portion of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe;

a second joint portion formed at a downstream end portion of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe, the second joint portion being arranged in parallel with the first joint portion **so that an exhaust gas in the first joint portion and an exhaust gas in the second joint portion flow in parallel**; and

wherein the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe includes the first exhaust pipe group and the first joint portion, and is formed in one unitary, integrally cast piece, and the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe includes the second exhaust pipe group and the second joint portion, and is formed in one unitary, integrally cast piece, the unitary, integrally cast pieces being separable from each other;

the exhaust pipe collecting structure further comprising:

a connecting tube located downstream of the first and second joint portions, for allowing the exhaust gases flowing through the exhaust passages inside the first and second joint portion

to be led into a common exhaust passage, the connecting tube being separable from the unitary, integrally cast piece of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe and the unitary, integrally cast piece of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe;

wherein the connecting tube includes two parts having a joint surface at which the two parts are jointed to each other, the joint surface extending along a ~~longitudinal direction of~~ **flow of the exhaust gas in** the connecting tube,

the first joint portion and the second joint portion are connected to each other by a fastening device, and

the joint surfaces of the two parts are joined by a fastening device, to join the first join portion, the second joint portion, and the connecting tube.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 4, wherein the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes and the connecting tube have double-walled structures to have cooling passages between walls.

8. (Currently amended) An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from at least four cylinders of the multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

an exhaust manifold **formed in one unitary, integrally cast piece and** having an upstream end portion which is connected to the cylinders and including a plurality of exhaust passages corresponding to exhaust ports of the cylinders, respectively;

a connecting tube **formed in one unitary, integrally cast piece and** connected to a downstream end of the exhaust manifold, the connecting tube including a plurality of connecting exhaust passages communicating with the plurality of exhaust passages of the exhaust manifold and being merged into the one exhaust passage at a location inside the connecting tube**, the connecting tube being separably connected to the exhaust manifold by a fastening device**;

wherein at least a downstream end portion of the exhaust manifold includes the exhaust passages which are arranged in two lines and forms an integral tube; and

wherein a casting parting plane **in casting** of the exhaust manifold is provided between the two lines of the exhaust passages.

9. (Previously Presented) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 8, wherein the multiple cylinders are four cylinders.

10. (Previously Presented) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 9, wherein the exhaust manifold is integrally cast by locating the casting parting plane of the exhaust manifold within one continuous plane.

11. (Currently Amended) **An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from cylinders of the multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream of**

the exhaust pipes in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

a connecting tube; and

an exhaust manifold attached on the connecting tube, the exhaust manifold including:

a first exhaust sub-collecting pipe and a second exhaust sub-collecting pipe located on downstream portions of exhaust pipes extending from the cylinders, the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes being configured to have internal independent exhaust passages of the exhaust gases flowing from the exhaust pipes, the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes being integral with each other at least at their joint portions as seen from outside;

a first water jacket formed at the joint portions to have a water flow cross-section elongate in a direction perpendicular to a casting parting plane forming a boundary of the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes as seen in a cross-sectional view,

wherein the multiple cylinders are four cylinders,

the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe is configured to have internal independent exhaust passages of the exhaust pipes of two cylinders selected from the four cylinders,

the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe is configured to have internal independent exhaust passages of the exhaust pipes of the remaining two cylinders,

the first water jacket is formed at the joint portions where the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes are integral with each other, to have the water flow cross-section that is elongate in a direction from a region between the two exhaust pipes of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe to a region between the two exhaust pipes of the second

exhaust sub-collecting pipe so as to cross the casting parting plane forming the boundary of the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes as seen in a cross-sectional view.

~~The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 9,~~ wherein the connecting tube further comprises:

a plurality of connecting exhaust passages communicating with the exhaust pipes of the exhaust manifold and being merged into a single exhaust passage; and

a second water jacket extending to a position upstream of the single exhaust passage so as to substantially define two groups of the connecting exhaust passages.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 11, wherein the second water jacket of the connecting tube is configured to cross the first water jacket of the exhaust manifold at center portions in cross-sections of the exhaust manifold and the connecting tube.

14. (Previously Presented) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 13, wherein the second water jacket and the first water jacket respectively have increased water flow sections at the center portion.